

*Early tractors (above) were powerful and tireless, but too expensive for most farmers.*

*Most important farm invention since the plow: mechanical reaper (right), introduced in 1830s. Crude steam engines, like rotating tiller (above), began to replace the horse.*

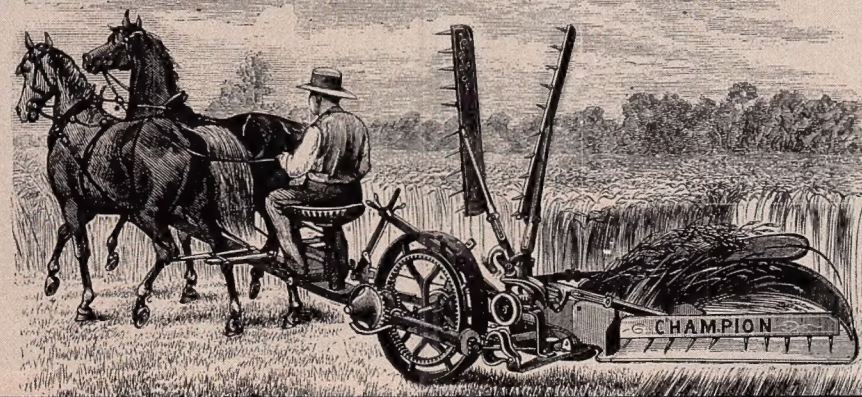
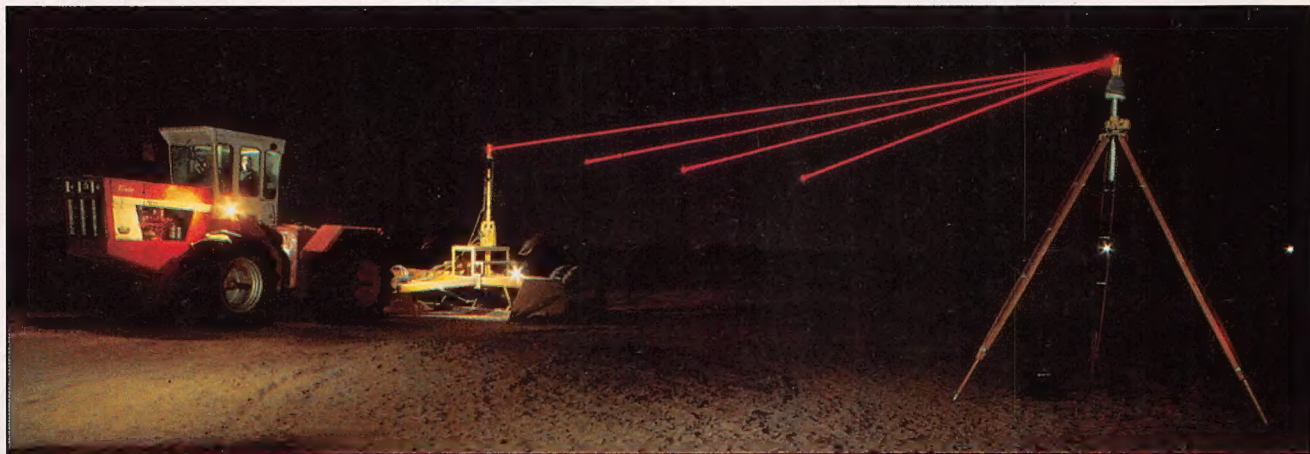






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*Specialized machinery (top left), hydroponics (top right) and laser-guided levelers (above) help produce record harvests.*